

The Homeless Coalition of Elkhart County

Ja-Deen Johnson

Director, Consumer Affairs Division

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

302 W. Washington St., E306

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Tony Dzwonar

Director, External Affairs

Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

100 N. Senate Ave., Rm. N501

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2215

Dear Ms. Johnson and Mr. Dzwonar,

November 9, 2004

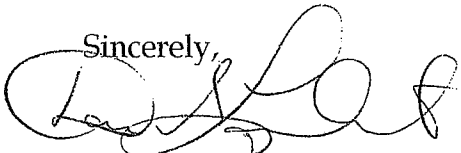
Thank you for scheduling a hearing of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for December 1st in South Bend. We are encouraged that you are giving persons in northern Indiana a chance to express their frustration with the large deposits currently charged by NIPSCO.

The undersigned represent various churches and agencies in the Elkhart community who come together monthly as the Homeless Coalition. This group has been meeting since 1994 and deals with many issues which affect the homeless, including issues which may push families into homelessness, such as loss of heat in the home. Several agencies assist families with past due bills and/or utility deposits and reconnects.

As a community, we are concerned that a large number of families are going without heat because they cannot afford the deposit to have their gas utility connected. We are further concerned about the amount of money put up by churches and agencies in our community for these deposits. Low income families also need help with medication, rent, and food. Monies tied up in NIPSCO deposits are not available to help with other legitimate needs.

Please help us to help others by supporting a cap on these large utility deposits.

Sincerely,



Don Lambert, Chair

Elkhart County Homeless Coalition

and

Members of the Homeless Coalition

listed below

Joan Andrews, Director
Family Christian Development Center
151 South Locke St.
Nappanee, IN 46550

Jessica Avery, Financial Coordinator
Helping Hand
330 W. Lexington, Suite 103
Elkhart, IN 46516

Major John Crampton, Commanding Officer
The Salvation Army
P.O. Box 385
Elkhart, IN 46515

Rudy Gourdine, Chaplain/Case Mgr.
Oaklawn CMHC
2600 Oakland Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46517

Rev. Lore Blinn Gibson, Senior Associate Pastor
Trinity United Methodist Church
2715 East Jackson Blvd.
Elkhart, IN 46516

Vanessa Kelleybrew, Director
Transitional Housing and Helping Hand
330 W. Lexington Ave. Suite 103
Elkhart, IN 46516

Don S. Lambert, Deputy Director
Elkhart Housing Partnership, Inc.
P.O. Box 1772
Elkhart, IN 46515-1772

Nyla Moore, Trustee
Concord Township
505 South Third St. #150
Elkhart, IN 46516

Mike Perez, Development Director
Faith Mission
530 South Main Street

Elkhart, IN 46516

Julie M. Poertner, Social Service Director
The Salvation Army
P.O. Box 385
Elkhart, Indiana 46515

Sharese Swafford, Manager of Outreach and Service Development
Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 809
Goshen, IN 46527

Tim Thorne, Executive Director
Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network
105 South Third St.
Goshen, IN 46526

Jeni Hiett Umble, Executive Director
Church Community Services, Inc.
629 South Third Street
Elkhart, IN 46516

Donna Van Horn, Retired Director
Youth Services Bureau
58077 River Lake Court
Elkhart, IN 46516